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communication from Mr. Warren to the Society of Arts.

To the Society for the encouragement of arts manufactures, &c.

The great utility of the engraved slates in instructing the children of the poor, particularly in the art of writing, has been amply proved in several respectable charity schools in Bury St. Edmund's, and in many private families, for the last nine months.

This invention occasions great saving in writing-paper, pens, ink, and labour in teaching.

In making use of these slates, the slate pencil is recommended to be placed in a quill, and to be held exactly after the manner of a pen, by which means the hand is made pliant preparatory to the use of that instrument on paper.

Small slates without capitals, which are the sort recommended to schools in general, are sold for fifteen shillings the dozen, by one of which all the children of a family may learn to write, and with care it will last for ages. Small slates with capital letters, are sold at one guinea the dozen. They may be procured from messrs. Champante and Whitrow, Jewry-street, and from messrs. W. and C. Child, lower Thames-street, London.

The method recommended in making use of the small slate, with the two additional sums engraved upon it, is to cut off with the pencil the three lower lines for the first sum, then four lines, then five, &c. by which means the two sums answer the purposes of many; this slate has been proved to be of great use in schools. The large slate, with the first four rules of arithmetic engraved on it, is recommended as a useful article in private families, as by it children may be exercised in those rules with very little trouble.

An addition sum may be cut upon a slate, so as to effect the purpose of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, by setting the lines at a considerable distance from each other, and making the upper numbers the largest for subtracting, but it makes rather a complex article, and examples for children cannot be too plain.

Some slates have been prepared with designs engraved upon them for learning to draw from, but this is not considered as a very important article.

The Society of Arts, &c. voted Mr. Warren their silver medal for this communication.

Caution to Apothecaries and Druggists, against a dangerous poison, sold for Glass of Antimony, which latter is used in preparing Tartar emetic, and other antimonial medicines.

Phil. Mag. March 1810.

The editor of the Philosophical Magazine states that he is indebted to a respectable manufacturing chemist, Luke Howard esq. of Plaiston, for the following information which he considers himself imperiously called upon to circulate as widely as possible.

A very large quantity of glass of lead has by some means, found its way into the London market, as glass of antimony. This criminal imposition is sure to be detected, in the operation to which glass of antimony is chiefly applied, the making of emetic tartar; but it is highly needful to the consumers of smaller quantities, as in the *ritrum ceratum*, and *vinum antimonii*, that the following distinctive characters of the two be extensively circulated, in order that those, who may have bought glass of antimony within 12 or 18 months past, may assure themselves of its being genuine. The public health and even the lives of some patients, may be considered as at stake on the occasion.

Glass of antimony has a rich brown or reddish colour, with the usual transparency of coloured glasses. The glass of lead in question is of a deeper and duller colour against the light, is much less transparent, and even in some samples quite opaque.

The specific gravity of glass of antimony never exceeds 4.95; that of glass of lead is 6.95; or in round numbers, the comparative weights (for the same bulk) are as five to seven.

Let twenty grains of the true antimonial glass be rubbed fine in a

glass mortar, adding half an ounce of good muriatic acid, it dissolves with an hepatic smell, the solution is turbid, but has no sediment. The glass of lead, substituted for it, treated in the same manner, turns the acid yellow, gives out an oxy-muriatic odour, and leaves much sediment.

Let a little of each solution be separately dropped into water. The true kind deposits oxide of antimony, in a copious white coagulum; or (if the water has been previously tinged with sulphuret of ammonia) in a fine orange precipitate. The substitute gives no precipitate in water, and in the other liquid, one of a dark brown or olive colour.

A solution of the substitute in distilled vinegar has a sweet taste, together with the other properties of acetate of lead.

A very small mixture of the substitute with the true kind, is detected, by its debasing more or less, the bright orange colour of the precipitate, thrown down by the sulphuret of ammonia from the solution in any acid.

The samples of the glass of lead substituted for glass of antimony, which have hitherto been detected, are of a much thicker and clumsier kind than it: but the appearance is not to be trusted; and no specimen should be allowed to pass, without a trial either of the specific gravity, or of its chemical properties.

Remarks... We feel it a duty to second the humane intentions of the editor of the Philosophical Magazine, in giving publicity to this information: especially as there can be little doubt that some of this dangerous substitute for glass of antimony, will find its way to the Dublin market; and it is very possible it may do so also to our province, either from thence, or directly from London, or some other English port.

It can be scarcely possible, but that there must be some legal method of punishing the villainous introducers of this noxious composition, and we hope sincerely the matter will be taken up at the fountain head, with that spirit which such an unfeeling

attack on the lives and health of the public, from the lowest motives of a paltry lucre, deserves; and that they will meet with that just retribution, which a crime, little short of murder merits.

We take the opportunity of the subject, to mention the farther information relative to the medicine mentioned in our last number, as so effectual for calculous complaints, that the dose of magnesia administered by Mr. Brande to his calculous patients varied from 15 to 20 grains, night and morning, according to a note in the same number of the Philosophical Magazine from whence the foregoing paper was extracted.

Method of fitting up in a portable form, the Electric Column, lately invented by Mr. J.A. de Luc, and of some experiments made with it by B.M. Foster esq. of Essex.

Phil. Mag. V. 35, 205.

Mr. Forster having been informed that a row of galvanic plates had been constructed without any fluid being interposed, and that it acted very sensibly on a gold leaf electrometer, formed one of about 200 small circles of zinc, and the same number of disks made of Dutch gold leaf cemented to blotting paper by gum Arabic: and through these circles, or plates, a silken string was passed for connecting them together.

This small instrument acted sufficiently powerful on a very delicate gold leaf electrometer, to induce a trial of an increased number of plates; and accordingly Mr. Forster made one of 500 plates of each sort, using silver leaf instead of the Dutch gold, and inserting the whole in a glass tube fitted up with brass cups, screws and balls. The instrument thus prepared may be called an *electric rod*.

Mr. Forster constructed some of these rods with plates not connected by a string through them; which he thinks may be the best mode, provided the glass tube is nearly of the same diameter as the plates; but that unless the tube fits accurately the other method will be preferable, as the plates can be more